

## REMOTE MUNITIONS DEPLOYMENT FROM AN UNMANNED GROUND VEHICLE

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Report Documentation Page				Form Approved OMB No. 0704-0188	
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1. REPORT DATE <b>11 AUG 2011</b>		2. REPORT TYPE <b>Briefing Charts</b>		3. DATES COVERED <b>11-08-2011 to 11-08-2011</b>	
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE <b>REMOTE MUNITIONS DEPLOYMENT FROM AN UNMANNED GROUND VEHICLE</b>				5a. CONTRACT NUMBER	
				5b. GRANT NUMBER	
				5c. PROGRAM ELEMENT NUMBER	
6. AUTHOR(S) <b>Jeremy Gray</b>				5d. PROJECT NUMBER	
				5e. TASK NUMBER	
				5f. WORK UNIT NUMBER	
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) <b>U.S. Army TARDEC ,6501 E.11 Mile Rd,Warren,MI,48397-5000</b>				8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER <b>#22213</b>	
9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) <b>U.S. Army TARDEC, 6501 E.11 Mile Rd, Warren, MI, 48397-5000</b>				10. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S ACRONYM(S)	
				11. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S REPORT NUMBER(S) <b>#22213</b>	
12. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY STATEMENT <b>Approved for public release; distribution unlimited</b>					
13. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES <b>Briefing for GROUND VEHICLE SYSTEMS ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY SYMPOSIUM (GVSETS), SET FOR AUG 2011</b>					
14. ABSTRACT <b>N/A</b>					
15. SUBJECT TERMS					
16. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF:			17. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT <b>Same as Report (SAR)</b>	18. NUMBER OF PAGES <b>15</b>	19a. NAME OF RESPONSIBLE PERSON
a. REPORT <b>unclassified</b>	b. ABSTRACT <b>unclassified</b>	c. THIS PAGE <b>unclassified</b>			

- High-risk missions often entail ground forces being required to manually emplace and deploy obstacle breaching munitions to generate a footpath through anti-personnel obstacles.
- A safer method for obstacle breaching is highly desired.
- Implementation of UGVs with live munitions has been demonstrated to mitigate risk by generating an increased stand-off distance while operating the system from a concealed position.
- This paper presents the research, development, and testing results of the integration of live munitions with UGV platforms.



# UGV Mounted Deployment

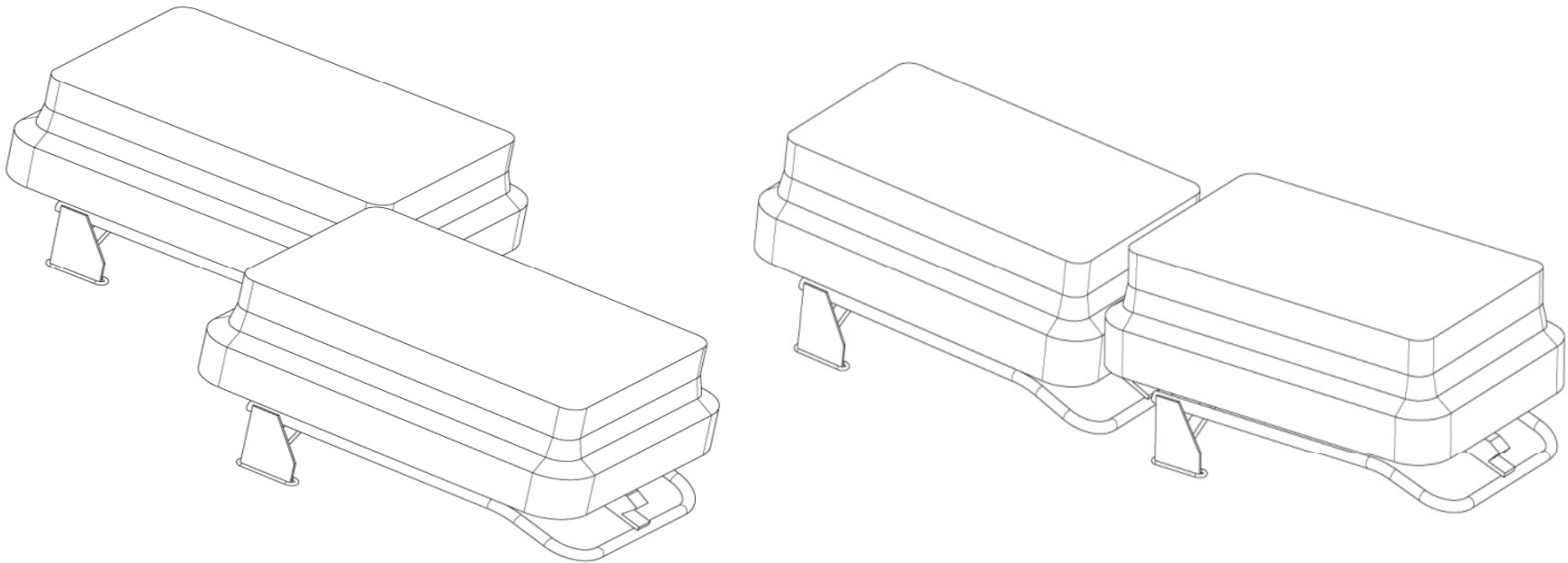
**ROBOTIC  
SYSTEMS**

- Previous development and testing overview
  - Integration on mid-size UGV platform
  - Munitions mounted directly to platform payload deck
  - Did not develop integrated firing mechanism
    - Encompassed commercial off the shelf remote firing system
  - UGV not field ready, nor existing equivalent fielded
  - Unknown munitions configuration
    - Platform mobility was limited depending on configuration
    - Needed to test out munitions alignment configuration
      - Offset alignment per the training manual
      - In-line alignment for optimal UGV deployment

# UGV Mounted Deployment – APOBS configuration

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- Offset versus in-line configuration, both approaches were experimented with



# UGV Mounted Deployment – Experimentation

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## UGV Mounted Deployment – User feedback

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- Overall
  - Users indicated a UGV deployment system for APOBS effectively supports breaching missions.
  - Users indicated it is a great desire to have a system that has munitions deployment functionality.
- Mid-size UGV Platform
  - Difficult to transport a platform of its size
  - Pre-set poses for firing positions would be preferred
  - Attachment of munitions directly on UGV causes vibrations and bouncing, which may cause damage to munitions
- Firing system
  - Recommended integrated firing system and increased stand-off distance.
- Configuration
  - In-line configuration increased UGV mobility.
  - Users were concerned with difficulty and time required to load/attach munitions set



## Trailer-Mounted Deployment

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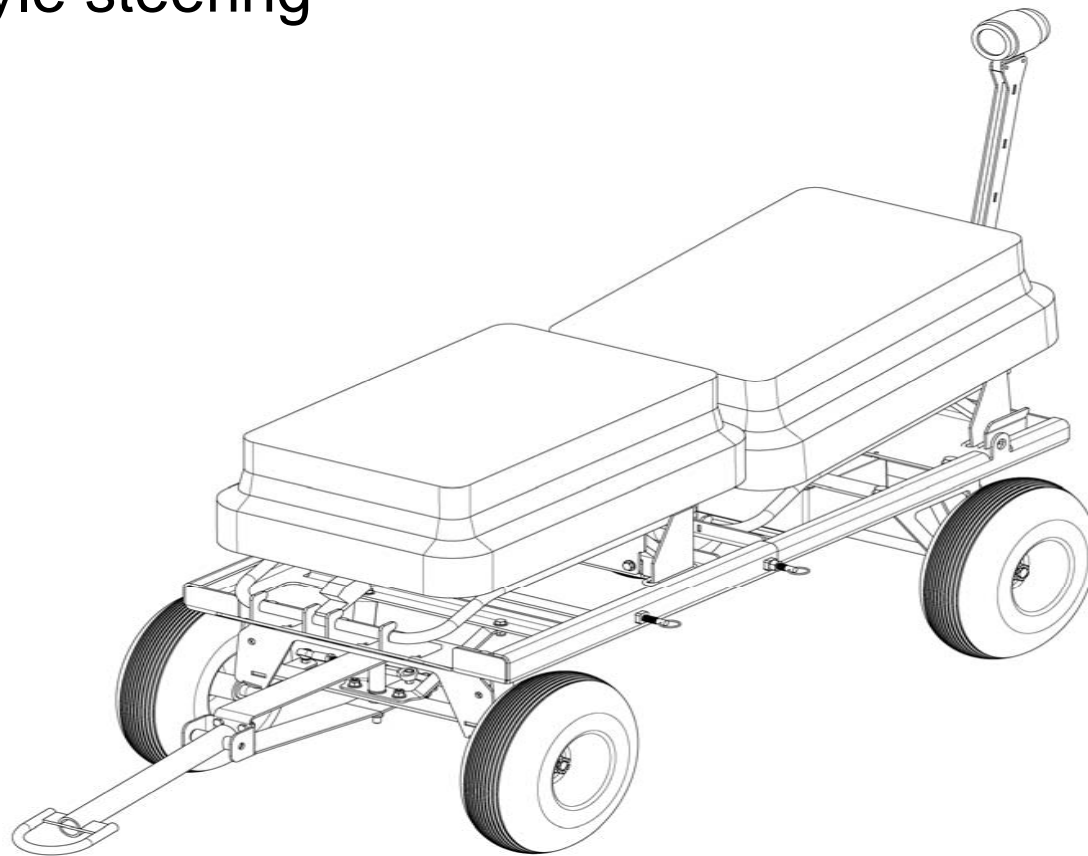
- Key system features and improvements
  - Towability by small UGV
  - Quickly assembled munitions trailer
  - “Snap-in” munitions system
  - Rear target aiming camera
  - Inexpensive appliqué kit for current fielded systems
  - Break-away capability
  - Ability to reuse or stow trailer after breaching mission completion



# Trailer-Mounted Deployment – Trailer Design

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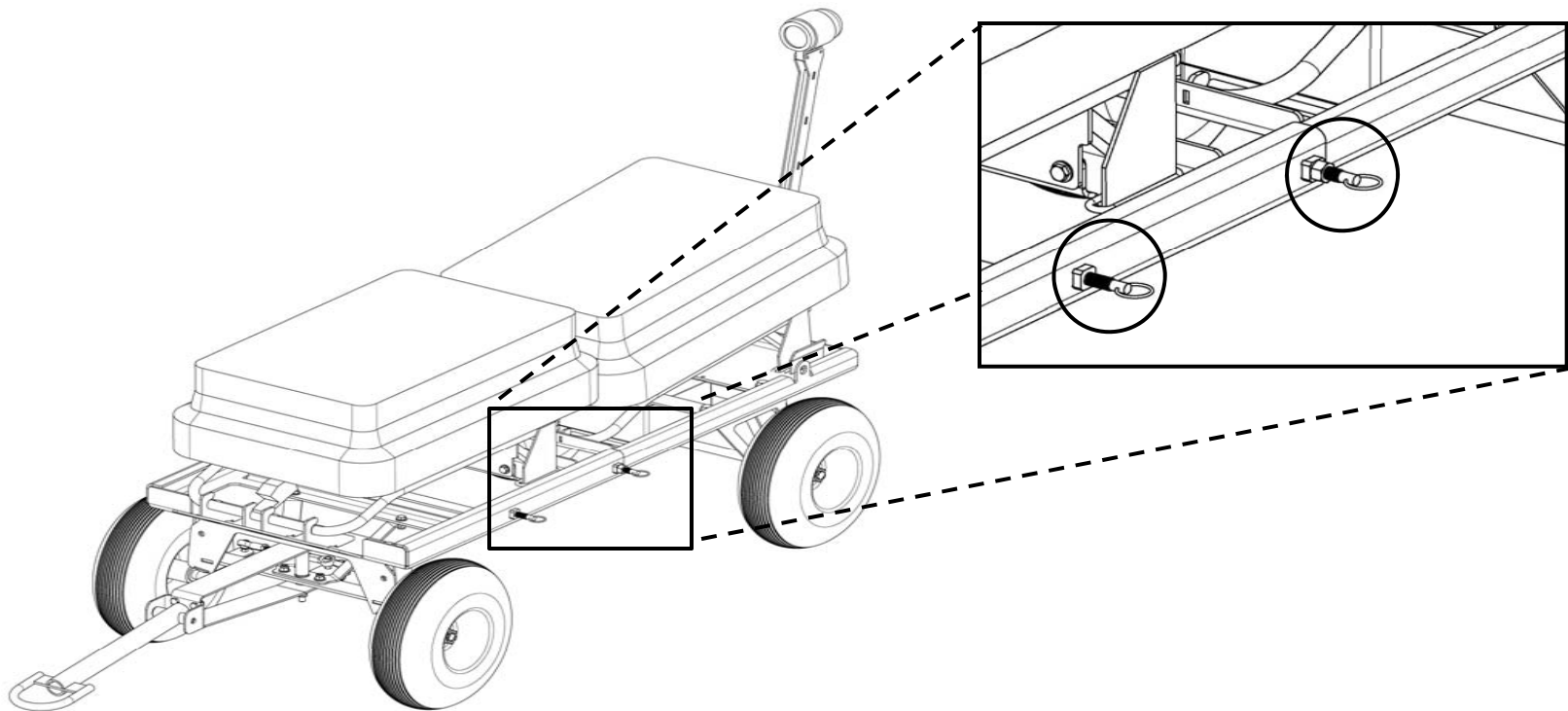
- Independent four wheel C-channel steel frame with Ackerman style steering



# Trailer-Mounted Deployment – Trailer Design

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- Quick release pins for assembling trailer sections



# Trailer-Mounted Deployment – Trailer Design

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- Storage/Shipping
  - Designed to be collapsed to fit in existing fielded small UGV shipping container

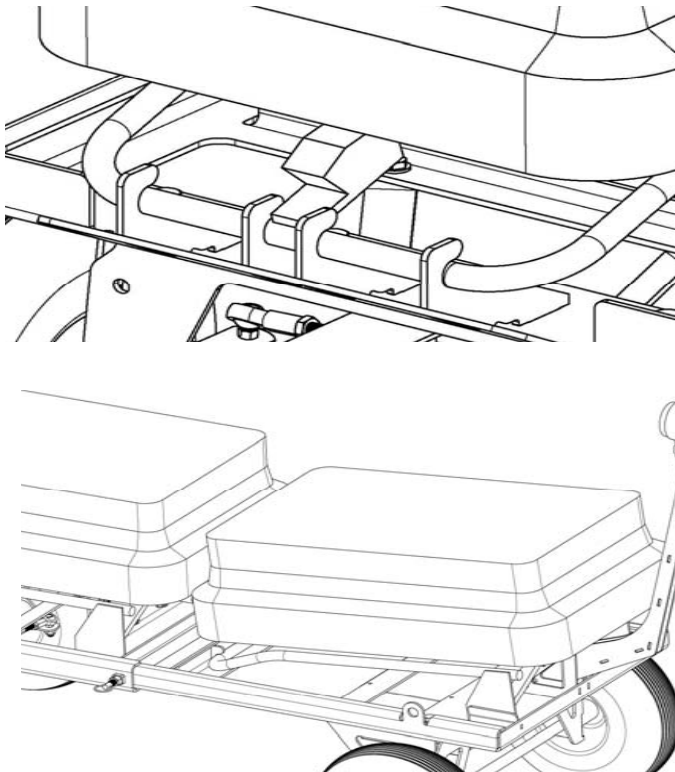




# Trailer-Mounted Deployment – “Snap-in” Munitions

## ROBOTIC SYSTEMS

- Utilizing “in-line” configuration, ALICE packs are located into place by toe lugs and locked into place.



Munitions are located by toe lugs

Front – spring loaded latch/release mechanism

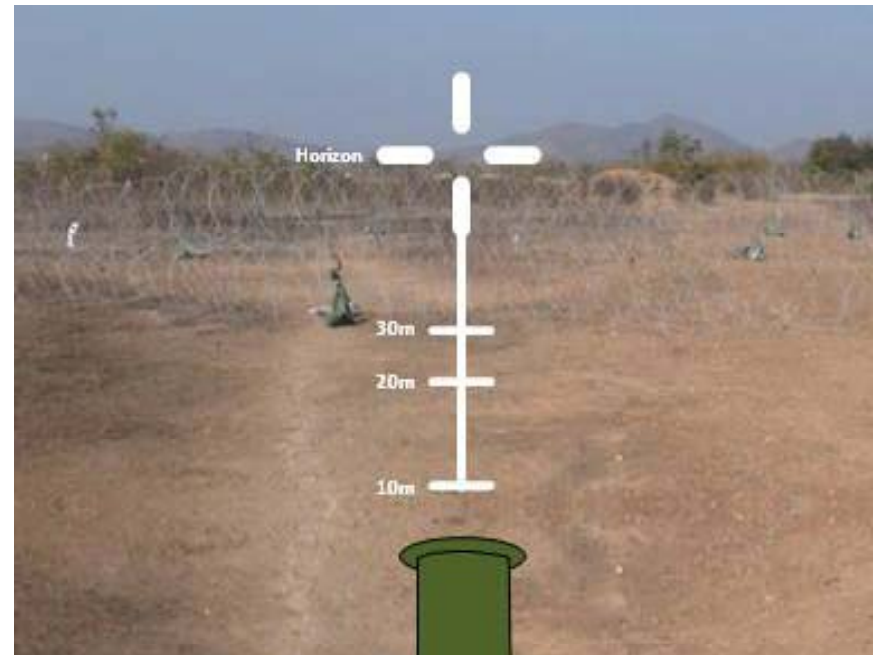
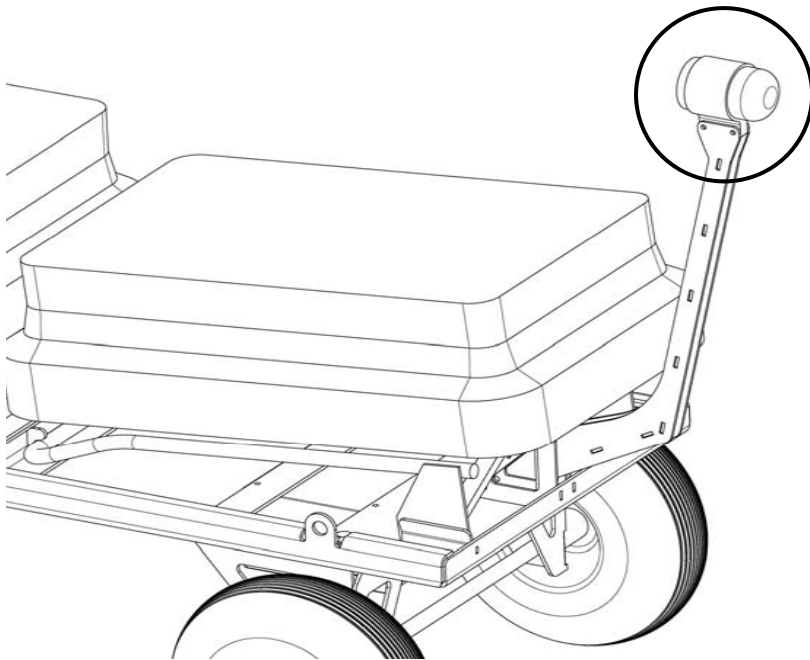
Rear – wedged into place by flange at the back trailer deck



## Trailer-Mounted Deployment – Rear Target Aiming Camera

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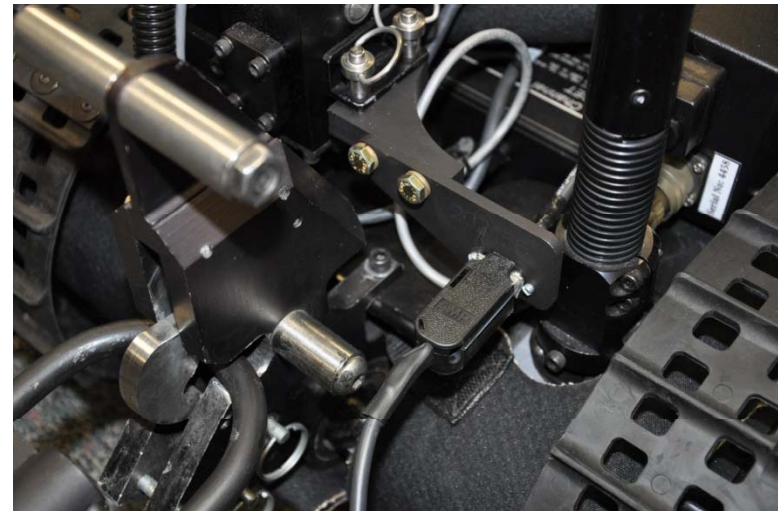
- Forward-facing camera to facilitate aiming, range estimation, and local situational awareness with image overlay.



# Trailer-Mounted Deployment – Appliqué & Break-Away Capability

## ROBOTIC SYSTEMS

- Appliqué kit for small unmanned ground vehicles
  - “Plug-in-play” design for fielded systems.
    - Rear camera relocation, installation of trailer hitch and USTI kit.
  - Does not require platform or software modifications.
  - Only requires integrated OCU fire control and fire set box on platform
- Break-away capability from munitions





# Trailer-Mounted Deployment – Completed System

## ROBOTIC SYSTEMS







Thank You

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Future work

Questions?